



Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

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PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT Fiscal Year 2006/2007 July 9, 2007

The fiscal year 2006/2007 was a difficult but rewarding year for the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. Our mission to support Michigan Historical Center operations was successfully implemented because of the energetic and dedicated efforts of the Board of Directors, who are all non-paid volunteers, the cooperative efforts of many dedicated employees of the Michigan Historical Center along with the Executive Director and the board members of the Michigan Historical Center Foundation.

The Friends of Michigan History, Inc. has made many contributions of time and money during the 2006/2007 fiscal year to the Michigan Historical Center and its satellites. Some examples of which are listed as follows:

Once again, we produced one of the best Veterans Day programs in Michigan. In 2006, the Friends saluted veterans of the conflict in Kosovo. The program and reception played to a near capacity crowd as we partnered once again with the Mid Michigan Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars.

The Friends contributed \$2,500 to support the Summer Education Program at Fort Wilkins.

The President of the Friends participated in the opening of the new addition to the Iron Industry Museum in Negaunee, Michigan. The Friends contributed \$1,000 to the museum.

Conservation and preservation of important historic documents housed in The Archives of Michigan was supported with a \$1,905.50 contribution.

The Friends contributed \$725 for Michigan History Day awards during 2006/2007.

We supported educational experiences for museum personnel with contributions totaling \$1,340.52 for travel and conference expenses not covered by the State of Michigan.

Friends financed the cost of catering for a number of Museum programs and receptions such as Black History Month with contributions in excess of \$2,300.

The organization participated with our Fayette affiliate with membership fees of at least \$1,232.96 during 2006/2007.

The Board has allocated and will forward \$665.90 in membership fees to the Walker Tavern affiliate.

The Friends have allocated \$1,000 for conservation and preservation of documents housed in the Archives of Michigan.

A contribution of \$4,000 has been allocated to help underwrite the costs of the new hunting exhibit in the Michigan Historical Center.



PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2006/2007

July 9, 2007

Page 2

An allocation of \$725 to provide materials supporting the Jackson Civil War Muster has been approved by the Board.

The Friends have directly contributed and allocated a total of nearly \$17,500 for museum and historical operations during 2006/2007.

Our affiliates at Fayette and Walker Tavern have nearly \$11,000 collectively in their treasuries. This money will support program and facility enhancements at each location.

Major challenges for 2007-2008 include the need to increase our total membership, which now totals in excess of 500 members. In addition, we must complete the application for IRS Group Exemption Number and subsequently complete and execute written agreements with our Fayette and Walker Tavern affiliates.

Operations during 2006/2007 were complicated and sometimes difficult because of the ongoing misunderstandings and/or disagreements with some Michigan Historical Center Foundation staff as well as Michigan Historical Center staff regarding the terms of a gentleman's operating agreement.

A significant amount of energy was directed to the resolution of this problem, which unfortunately diverted attention from our normal support operations. Due to the enlightened leadership of the Michigan Historical Center Foundation as well as the patience and dedication of the Friends of Michigan History Board of Directors, a written agreement was executed May 23, 2007. The agreement is for one year subject to review and renewal at that time.

This sometimes painful procedure has brought the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. across the threshold into a new era. As our organization known as The Friends of Michigan History, Inc. is registered as a 501[c] 3 organization we must be ever cognizant of all the applicable IRS requirements. It is my hope that our association with the Michigan Historical Center Foundation and the Michigan Historical Center will allow us all to accomplish many great things in the future.

Please accept my personal thanks to all of you for your support of our organization and the preservation, education and enhancement of Michigan history.

Francis "Bus" Spaniola

Francis "Bus" Spaniola, President
Board of Directors
Friends of Michigan History, Inc